

(a) whether the attention of Union Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Steel output may fall short of expectations" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 24 August, 1989;

(b) if so, the total demand and availability of steel; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to

meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total demand and production of steel as projected recently by the Eighth Plan Working Group on Iron and Steel Industry is as under:-

(Million tonnes)

	1989-90	1999-2000
Demand	14.80	31.00
Production	13.43*	28.21

* As per current indications, production is likely to be somewhat lower.

(c) The domestic availability of steel is sought to be augmented through imports, in the short run. For the long run, production is sought to be increased through various modernisation/expansion programmes of main producers and adequate capacity creation in the secondary sector.

Availability of Raw Materials to Re-Rolling Units

351. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "More Steel rerolling units face closure" appearing in 'Hindu' dated 22 October, 1989; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or contemplated to meet the requirement of raw materials of the rerolling units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Availability of raw material (billets and rerollable scrap) within the country is not adequate to meet all the demand of the rerolling industry. It consists with foreign exchange availability, imports of steel melting scrap are arranged through MSTC. Imports of ships for breaking into scrap have recently been made easier.

Vijay Nagar Steel Plant

352. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to start work on Vijay Nagar integrated Steel Plant in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the steps Government propose to take to complete the projects early; and

(d) the total investment likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES